

REMARKS

In the subject Office action dated 13 December 2006, claims 1-3 and 6-8 were examined. Applicant has amended claim 2, canceled claim 1 and claims 3-5, and left claims 6-8 under active prosecution in the present application. Applicant respectfully asserts that all amendments are supported by the original disclosure and do not introduce new matter. Moreover, Applicant respectfully asserts that the amendments merely clarify and do not further limit or narrow the scope of the claims. The amendments are made to expedite allowance and issue and do not introduce new issues and thus should be admissible after final rejection in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.116.

In the subject Office Action dated December 13, 2006, claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Brown (U.S. Pat. No. 729,536). Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Michaelson et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,534,000) in view of either Japan '719 (Japan 2002-325719) or Kraft et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,713,029). Claim 2 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 6-8 were allowed.

Claim 2 has been amended into independent form and the other rejected claim 1 canceled. Thus claim 2 is now in condition for allowance.

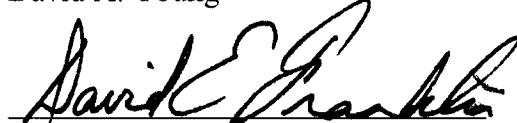
CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, it is respectfully submitted that the claims currently pending in the present application are in form for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of those claims, as amended herein, is earnestly solicited. Applicant encourages the Examiner to contact his representative, David Franklin at (513) 651-6856 or dfranklin@fbtlaw.com.

No fee is due as the number of claims after amendment total 4 with 2 independent. However, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment of fees to Frost Brown Todd LLC Deposit Account No. 06-2226.

Respectfully submitted,

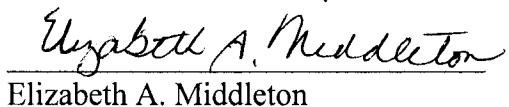
David A. Young



David E. Franklin
Registration No. 39,194
Telephone (513) 651-6856
FROST BROWN TODD LLC
2200 PNC Center
201 East Fifth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202-4182

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that a copy of this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Patent Office by electronic transmission, addressed to MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 this 26th day of December, 2006.



Elizabeth A. Middleton